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Hamburg, Hamburger Abendblatt, 16 Nov 53

By order of the Soviet authorities, all of the civilian population of Oberschlema (Erzgebirge), former radium spa, have been evacuated. The town is so undermined by galleries from the neighboring uranium mines that several houses have collapsed.

PURGE OF GDR TRADE UNIONS -- Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet, 16 Oct 53

Berlin, 15 October -- Within the next 4 weeks, membership cards for the 5 million members of the East German trade union will be subject to extra checking.

On 15 October, Taegliche Rundschau, the Soviet newspaper in Germany, demanded a new purge in the East German Communist Party. It is felt in West Berlin that there is a connection between the demand for a purge and the checking of the trade union membership cards.

SUSPENSIONS, REINSTATEMENTS OF GDR OFFICIALS -- Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet, 16 Oct 53

According to Freiheit, GDR Communist newspaper, Hans Elsmann, acting mayor of the GDR city of Halle, has been discharged because his wife was an agent for an American espionage center in West Berlin.

Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet, 19 Oct 53

Berlin, 18 October (Svenska Dagbladet's special correspondent) -- Vincenz Muller, General of the People's Police, who was suspended some time ago from his post as deputy leader of the National Democratic Party in the GDR, reported today to the party congress that he would be unable to participate in the congress because of sickness. He also notified the party leadership that he would be unable to continue his party work, inasmuch as his responsible position as police chief required all his time. In a letter to Muller, Foreign Minister Lothar Bolz, chairman of the party, expressed the hope that Muller would soon be feeling better. Muller has also quit his post as Deputy Minister of Interior Affairs.

The press reports today that Wilhelm Zaisser, former GDR Minister of State Security, has returned to the GDR and is now being interrogated by the party control commission.

Rudolf Herrnsstadt, former editor in chief of Neues Deutschland, the Communist Party's central organ, was discharged because of his association with Zaisser and Dahlem; however, he has been appointed director of the Merseburg division of the central archives. Franz Dahlem, Communist cadre chief, has been assigned to handle "tactical negotiations" for the party archives. He is still at the disposal of the party control commission, however. The control commission has now begun to investigate all those Communists who fled to the West during the Nazi regime.

SURVEILLANCE OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS IN RUMANIA -- Athens, Le Messenger d'Athenes, 27 Oct 53

Authorities have set up a car pool on Strada Filipescu for shadowing diplomatic vehicles. This car pool is in direct telephone contact with agents who watch the foreign embassies and legations. Two cars are always ready to follow the cars of the US diplomatic mission.

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The service for surveillance of the foreign diplomats in Bucharest is headed by a Soviet colonel who speaks Rumanian with a strong Russian accent. His principal aide is a Rumanian, Virgil Ionescu, who is a captain in the Militia and is often sent abroad as a diplomatic courier.

RESTRICTION ON BOAT MOVEMENTS IN ALBANIAN WATERS -- Salonica, Makedonia, 9 Dec 53

Alexandria -- According to information in the Egyptian press, Albanian authorities have taken strict measures to prevent boats from leaving Albania. Boats without permission. A small Albanian boat recently arrived in Greece, with a number of refugees: as a result, special permits from the Albanian security police are now required for travel along the Albanian coast. Moreover, an order requires all boats to be reregistered at specified places; those not reregistered will be confiscated.

The Albanian security police has temporarily halted traffic in the Vlona region. A thorough investigation is being conducted to discover any persons connected with the escape of the Albanian boat to Greece.

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